

New England Council Overview For the May 13-15, 2014 CCC Meeting

Current Activities

- Complete the NEFMC Omnibus EFH amendment, where existing groundfish closed areas, habitat closed areas, and scallop rotational management areas require optimization to minimize adverse effects of fishing to the extent practicable.
- Complete an amendment to consider measures to address accumulation limits and fleet diversity in the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan.
- Develop management actions to improve catch information for the Atlantic herring fishery, including river herring/shad bycatch, and to revisit measures that were disapproved in a recent amendment to the herring FMP.

Future Priorities

- Pursue other management actions, such as an Ecosystem Based Fishery Management Plan, coordinating with adjacent management bodies to facilitate a consistent approach
- Coordinate response with the MAFMC and ASMFC to address management issues caused by climate change
- Develop a limited entry program for the whiting fishery, and measures to address at-sea monitoring issues.

Additional NOAA Resources/Support Required

- Sufficient FY 2015 – 2020 budget resources that reflect increasing costs and demands of regulatory system
- NOAA/NMFS commitment to adequately fund assessment and at-sea monitoring programs (including electronic monitoring)
- Streamlining of MSA/NEPA process